

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 8-14, 18-47, and 52 are cancelled. Claims 1-7, 15-17, 48-51, and 53-55 remain in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for the telephone interview held on October 2, 2007 during which the informality rejection set out below was discussed.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is submitted with the present Amendment.

In the Office Action, (i) claims 1-7, 15-17, and 48-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, (ii) claims 1-3, 15, and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,408) in view of Blatter (U.S. Patent No. 5,148,725) and further in view of Schein (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,059), (iii) claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser in view of Blatter in further view of Schein and further in view of Gaughn (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,383), (iv) claims 5-7, 16-17, and 48-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser in view of Blatter in view of Schein and further in view of Kenney (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,283), and (v) claim 51 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser in view of Blatter in view of Schein and further in view of Sitnik (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,570).

The Office Action also indicated that (a) claim 52 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims and (b) claims 53-55 would be allowable by virtue of their dependency from claim 52.

Claim 1 has therefore been amended to correct the

above-described informalities as well as to incorporate the allowable subject matter previously set out in cancelled claim 52. Applicants submit that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Additionally, claims 53-55 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-7, 15-17, 48-51, and 53-55, each of which depends from claim 1, are also in condition for allowance.

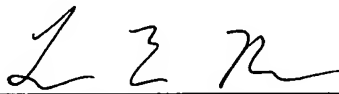
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 103(a) and 112, second paragraph.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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